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THE GULL



Golden Gate Audubon Society

Berkeley, California

Volume 69

Number 4

April 1987

WILD TIMES IN BRAZIL

If you like life on the wild side, set aside April 9 on your calendar to see some of the wild areas and national parks of Brazil. Whether searching out a rare Purple-breasted Plovercrest (there really is such a hummingbird) or a Giant Anteater, George Peyton will introduce us to a fascinating variety of birds and wildlife from one of the great natural areas of the world.

Last September George led a three-week birding and nature tour to Amazonia National Park, the Panatal, Iguacu Falls and many other wild areas in Brazil that few people have a chance to visit. Gorgeously colored toucans and tanagers, and numerous species of hummingbirds were seen on a daily basis. Seeing the Hyacinth Macaw, largest and most uncommon member of the parrot family, was one of the highlights of the trips. Capybaras, caimans, and anacondas were also part of the wildlife scene.

Our meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. at Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley.

AUDUBON BIRDATHON/BLITZ

On April 25 Golden Gate Audubon Society will sponsor several special birdathons to honor John J. Audubon's birthday and to raise money for the National Audubon Society's Mono Lake Legal Fund.

Mono Lake was given a reprieve last summer by a bountiful Mother Nature, but this winter's snows have not been plentiful. Meanwhile, The City of Los Angeles continues to squeeze all it can from the tributary streams, and to battle on several legal fronts for every last ounce. The Public Transit suit is still in the hands of the 9th Circuit Court. Rush and Lee Vining Creek diversion battles continue, and other complex legal challenges still need funding. The National Audubon Mono Lake Legal Account is \$50,000 in debt, with \$30,000 to \$50,000 in new legal expenses expected.

Therefore, we are asking that each participant in the Birdathon donate \$10.00 plus five to ten cents per species. Or, you can pledge to sponsor one of the teams as a whole, or one of the participants on the team. Another alternative is to go out on your own, see how many species you can find, and ask

BIRD SEED SALE — SEE P. 56

sponsors to support your efforts. (See the form on the inside of the back cover.)

East Bay Birdathon/Blitz

We will meet at the East Bay Regional Park Tilden Nature Center parking lot at 5:30 a.m. to listen for owls and hear the dawn chorus. We will return to the parking lot and meet those of you who want to start the day at 7 a.m. Jewel Lake, Briones, Alameda South Shore, Coyote Hills, and other unusual East Bay locations (maybe even the Martinez Sewage Ponds and the Davis Street dump) are all on the agenda; but changes due to last minute scouting reports and hot tips are possible! Bring lunch and be prepared to spend all day. Dinner at Mexicali Restaurant, 601 Clay, Oakland, about 6:30 p.m. is optional. West Bay and Alameda birders are welcome to join us and share the finds of the day. Leaders: Helen and Paul Green (526-5943), Lina Prairie (549-3187), David Rice (527-6696).

West Bay Birdathon/Blitz

We will meet at 8 a.m. at the Middle Lake Parking Lot in Golden Gate Park. We will bird Golden Gate Park, Presidio, Lake Merced, and head down the San Mateo coast in the afternoon. Bring lunch, and scopes if you have them. We will bird until 5 p.m. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640).

See "Field Trips" this issue for details of the Alameda field trip, led by Leora Feeney, which also will be a benefit birdathon for those who wish to participate.

FIELD TRIPS CALENDAR

Saturday, April 5—Beginners' Trip to Five Brooks, Bolinas Lagoon and Audubon Canyon Ranch. See March *Gull* for details.

Wednesday, April 8—Mini-trip to Sunol Regional Park. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the ranger station parking lot in the park. Take Hwy. 580 east, watch for the turnoff to Hwy. 680 near Dublin. Take Hwy. 680 south, turn off at Calaveras Rd., go left, follow the signs to Sunol Park. We may see Lark Sparrows, Golden Eagles, Northern Orioles and resident birds of the area. Bring lunch. Rain cancels trips. Leaders: Delpha deTimofeev and Ruth Voss (525-8032).

Saturday, April 11—Beginners' Trip to Bothe-Napa State Park. This is a particularly beautiful park in the spring, with migrating warblers and vireos, Winter Wrens, wildflowers and, if we are lucky, Pileated Woodpeckers. We will walk about four to five miles and will bird mostly by ear. This trip is especially good for beginners. From the East Bay take I-80 north, turn off to Napa, following Hwy. 29 to St. Helen. The entrance to the park is on your left just past the Ole Bale Mill north of St. Helena. From the West Bay, take Hwy. 101 north to Hwy. 37 near Novato, go east to the junction with Hwy. 121 (turn left at the junction) and follow 121 north and east to Napa where it joins Hwy. 29. Continue northwest to the park. Meet in the parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Bring lunch and liquids. Rain cancels trip. Please carpool if possible. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). \$ (✓)

Saturday, April 11—Bodega Bay for spring migrants. Meet at 9 a.m. at the intersection of Hwy. 1 and East Shore Rd. (½ mile north of Diekmann's Bay Store). We will bird Bodega harbor, Bodega head and possibly Salmon Creek. Pack a bag lunch to eat at Conzett's "Tilt City" where land birds abound in the spring.

If you come up Friday, lodging is available at the Best Western Motel (707-875-3525) and The Inn at the Tides (800-541-7788). There are nice campsites at the Dunes State Park just north of our meeting place. Plan to get there early to be sure of getting a spot, or call a Ticketron office to reserve one. Leaders: Nancy Conzett (527-2593, Kensington; 707-875-2231, Bodega Bay). (✓)

Saturday, April 18—Mines Road, Livermore. Meet at 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Nob Hill Shopping Center at S. Livermore and Pacific in Livermore. From there we will drive on mountain roads to Patterson. Bring food and liquids. We can expect to see Northern Orioles, Lewis' Woodpeckers, and Phainopeplas in this habitat. Roadrunners and Wild Turkeys have also been seen on this trip. Those who want to can continue to bird with the group until dark. Leader: Art Edwards (447-3720). (✓)

Sunday, April 19—Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. for the traditional Easter walk around the Chain of Lakes and the other lakes in the vicinity. There is a variety of waterfowl including Wood Ducks at this time of year. We also should see at least two varieties of hummingbirds. After the walk we will have a champagne brunch at a nearby restaurant (\$9-\$10). We will meet at 43rd Ave. and Fulton St. near North Lake (Chain of Lakes). Leader: Betty Short

(921-3020 work phone). (✓)

Saturday, April 25—Golden Gate Audubon will be sponsoring two birdathons as a benefit for Mono Lake. One of the trips will be in San Francisco and the Peninsula, the other trip will cover East Bay hot spots. Participants will be asked to make a contribution of \$10 plus 10 cents for each species seen. Details of these trips will be found elsewhere in this issue.

Saturday, April 25—Alameda and San Leandro Shoreline. Meet at 9 a.m. in Alameda, at Broadway Shoreline Dr. We will bird the Elsie B. Roemer Bird Sanctuary and the San Leandro Bay Regional Shoreline. Toward the end of the day we will look for Burrowing Owls on Bay Farm Island. Be sure to bring lunch and liquids. We should see migrating shorebirds, many in breeding plumage. Bring a scope if you have one. This trip will be run as a benefit for Mono Lake. See details elsewhere in the *Gull*. Leader: Leora Feeney (522-8525). (✓)

Sunday, April 26—Birding by Ear in Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8 a.m. at the west entrance to Briones Regional Park off Bear Creek Rd. Take Hwy. 24 to the Orinda turnoff. Exit and take San Pablo Dam Road northwest about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. Turn right and drive about two miles to the Briones Regional Park entrance on the right. Meet in the parking area on the left just beyond the fee booth. Be prepared to hike five miles and carry a lunch and liquids through hilly terrain. Be sure to bring a hat or sunscreen. We will study the songs and calls of common breeding birds of the East Bay. Leader: Dave Cornman (825-2106). (✓)

Saturday, May 2—Beginners' Trip to Briones Regional Park. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the parking lot past the Bear Valley entrance station. From

Hwy. 24 take the Orinda exit to Camino Pablo and continue north for about two miles to Bear Creek Rd. (There is a sign to Briones Regional Park.) Turn right and drive four miles east to the park entrance. Lunch optional. Leader: Gene Hull (525-6893). (✓)

Sunday, May 3—Mt. Diablo State Park. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Rock City parking area about one mile inside the south entrance gate to the park. Bring lunch and liquids. We will look for spring birds and wildflowers. Leader: Mary Louise Rosegay (386-1640). (✓)

Note from the Field Trips Committee: We need leaders for local trips during the summer. If you are experienced in birding a productive area during the summer and would like to share your experience with others, please call Shirley Kelly (387-8290).

Carpooling arrangements can be made for trips marked (✓). Call Kate Partridge at 236-7022 and leave a message. She will contact you.

Trips marked with \$ go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee.

Problems: If for any reason you have difficulty getting in touch with a field trip leader or need information regarding a trip, call Shirley Kelly (387-8290) or the GGAS office (843-2222).

—FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE

APRIL 4th SFSU CAMPUS SPRING WALK

The San Francisco State University Campus Spring Walk, an annual affair, will begin at 8:15 a.m. Saturday, April 4. There is much to see and hear on the campus which is located near Lake Merced. Join SFSU art professor Dennis Beall for a morning around the campus. Meet at the entrance to Parking Lot 7, Tapia Drive off Font Blvd. For information phone Harriet Talan, 469-2132.

FEBRUARY OBSERVATIONS

January 28 through February 24

News from the Farallones

The Farallon biologists report a mild winter to date, good news for the Elephant seal cows, which have just about finished pupping in average numbers. Although Elephant seals dominate the news from SE Farallon Island at this time of year, some of the seabirds are busy as well. Common Murres have returned in high numbers; and their breeding success will be especially important this year because of a 50% decline since 1982, mainly attributable to gill-netting. Western Gulls are setting up and fighting over nesting territories, but the nesting season really begins in March, when Cassin's Auklets begin laying their eggs. (Thanks to Point Reyes Bird Observatory for SE Farallon Island information.)

Loons through Ducks

A Yellow-billed Loon was found in Bodega Harbor Feb. 19 (WS), only the second "acceptable" individual to be seen in Northern California waters this winter; the other was at Crescent City in late October. Three Laysan Albatrosses were seen from a fishing boat off Cordell Bank Feb. 1 (DSte). Three Fork-tailed Storm-Petrels were viewed from shore in Santa Cruz Feb. 23 (DLSu). There were 250 near the Monterey coast, mostly in the Monterey Harbor, on the same day (SJ), accompanied by strong winds. Four Ashy Storm-Petrels also graced Monterey Harbor Feb. 23 (MRBA). Thirteen Cattle Egrets spread themselves from San Joaquin to Santa Cruz Cos. through the month (mob). Santa Fe Grade Road in Merced Co. remains a good spot to find White-faced Ibis, 30 being seen there Feb. 6 (DW).

The Blue-phase Snow Goose at the San Lorenzo River in Santa Cruz

remained through Feb. 22 (DLSu), and a rarer Blue-phase Ross's Goose was at White Slough, San Joaquin Co. Feb. 12 (DGY). A Eurasian form of the Green-winged Teal was found at Arrowhead Marsh Feb. 1 (DKa). The female Tufted Duck in San Francisco commuted back and forth between the Zoo and Elk Glen Lake through the month (mob). An immature male Tufted Duck was found at William Page Shields Study Area Feb. 15 (NB), and a female Tufted Duck was on Remallard Park in Larkspur Feb. 16 (JCo). In addition to the three male Harlequin Ducks lingering at Bolinas, Moss Landing, and West Cliff Dr. in Santa Cruz, two females were found: one near Marshall Feb. 16 (RS), and one near Fitzgerald Marine Reserve Feb. 16 (CGR). An Oldsquaw continued to be seen at Moss Landing through Feb. 11 (PhR), one was found at Bodega Bay Feb. 7 (SWa, NTC), and another appeared near Marshall Feb. 16 (RS).

Raptors through Alcids

One immature and four adult Bald Eagles were in Alameda, San Mateo and Merced Counties throughout the month (JM, CS, MC). A Swainson's Hawk at White Slough in San Joaquin Co. Feb. 16 (RAE, DGY) was surprisingly early.

Lesser Golden-Plover reports came from Bodega Bay, Dillon Beach, Spalletta Plateau, Mill Valley Marsh, and Ano Nuevo State Reserve during the month (mob). The largest concentration of Mountain Plovers was 200 found in Colusa Co. north of Arbuckle Jan. 30 (DES). The Princeton Harbor Rock Sandpiper was still present Feb. 22 (HW), and one was at Pebble Beach Feb. 1 (AME). A Ruff was found at the Woodbridge Ecological Preserve, San Joaquin Co. Feb. 7 (DC, DGY) and still was present on Feb. 10 (DGY, RAE),

adding to a small number of inland records for this species. The adult Little Gull continued to be found at the Stockton Sewage Ponds to Feb. 16 (MW). Small numbers of Black-legged Kittiwakes were seen along the coast throughout the period with a concentration of 100 in Monterey Harbor Feb. 23 (mob, SJ). One found near Red Rock Marina in Contra Costa Co. Feb. 10 (BR) was a surprise. A very early Elegant Tern reached Pescadero Beach and perched on the rocks Feb. 15 (MW).

Landbirds

A Short-eared Owl was near Robert's Landing in San Leandro Feb. 15 (BJ). Two Saw-whet Owls were found at day roosts: one in Tilden Park off the Nimitz Way Jan. 31 (TK), and another on Cherry Lane, Davis Feb. 3 (WM). The immature **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** was still being seen in Nicasio through Feb. 19 (mob). A Red-naped Sapsucker was at Elk Glen Lake in Golden Gate Park Feb. 16-21 (YT, MLR, DQ). A possible **Western Wood-Pewee** was found at the Angus Hoffman Nature Area, along the American River, Sacramento Co. Feb. 15 (JCo). If confirmed it would be considered a first winter record for this species. Voice recordings made of the wood-pewee at the Carmel River mouth, reported in the January *Gull*, sounded very good for an Eastern Wood-Pewee. Sonograms may help the California Rare Bird Committee with this dilemma (*fide* JM). One Western Flycatcher remained at the Watsonville Community Hospital (hereafter WCH) to Feb. 20 (DLSu, mob), and another was near the San Lorenzo River mouth Feb. 7 (DLSu). The Tropical Kingbird at the Monterey Bay Academy, Santa Cruz Co. was present through Feb. 22 (DLSu). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was found at Pt. Reyes, leading ob-

servers back and forth between Spaletta and Hall Ranches Feb. 6-21 (BA, mob). This may be a first winter record for Northern California. A Clark's Nutcracker appeared at UC Santa Cruz Arboretum Jan. 29 (DLSu).

Very unusual in winter was the Sage Thrasher at Mt. San Bruno Feb. 7 (JMcC). Another at a less unusual location in winter was Madera Co. south of Hensley Lake Feb. 14 (JLo). Two **Red-throated Pipits** were found at the Woodland Sugar Ponds Feb. 15 (JDW, MWe, *fide* SFB). If accepted by the Rare Bird Committee these would constitute the first and second winter records for California. The **Brown Shrike** continued to be seen in its regular haunts at White House Pool through Feb. 21 (mob). Two veritable Northern Shrikes were found: one at White Slough Feb. 12 (DGY), and another at Merced National Wildlife Refuge Feb. 15-21 (JLo, SFi).

Santa Cruz Co. continued to have an amazing winter warbler season: two Tennessees, one Nashville, one Hermit, one Palm, one Black-and-white, and a Wilson's were all present during February at various locations (DLSu, et al.). The **Blackburnian Warbler** in Pacific Grove remained at least to Feb. 1 (JM, et al.), and the Prairie Warbler at Princeton was reported through Feb. 22 (mob). The San Francisco Zoo sported one Black-and-white Warbler Feb. 24 (*fide* SFB). The male Tanager remained at WCH through Feb. 21 (DLSu).

A Grasshopper Sparrow was found at Dry Creek Regional Park, Alameda Co. Feb. 20 (BR). Last year a March 19 date in the same place was considered early! Seven Sharp-tailed Sparrows continued to hold their own at Palo Alto Baylands and at Limantour Estero through the period (mob), and a Swamp

Sparrow was at Rodeo Gulch in Santa Cruz Co. Feb. 2 (DLSu). Two additional White-throated Sparrow sightings in Contra Costa and Santa Cruz Cos. add to our impressive total of wintering birds (SWa, DLSu). A Lapland Longspur was seen on the Spaletta Plateau Feb. 16 (GMcC). The Pescadero Rusty Blackbird continued to be seen through Feb. 16 (MLR, AME, PJM, SFi).

Observers

Brooks Allen, Stephen F. Bailey, Bruce Barrett, William G. Bousman, Ned Brinkley, Joel Buffa, Maggie Clark, John Comstock, Nancy T. Conzett, Debbie Cotter, Elizabeth Dickey, Al M. Eisner, Richard A. Erickson, Shawneen Finnegan, Wilma Ghiorso, Bob Hogan, George Hugenberg, Bob Jarrell, Damien Kazarowski, Ted Koundakjian, Bruce LaBar, John Lovio, many observers (mob), Guy McCaskie, John McConnell (JoM), John McCormick (JMcC), Peter J. Metropulos, Wayne Meyer, Monterey Rare Bird Alert, Joseph Morlan, Clyde Morris, Dan P. Murphy, Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Farallon report thanks to Stephanie Kaza), Donna & Doug Pomeroy, Dave Quady, Cliff G. Richer, Bob Richmond, Mary Louise Rosegay, Phil Rostron, Don E. Schmoldt, Debra L. Shearwater, Shearwater Journeys, Jean Marie Spoelman, Rich Stallcup, Carl Steager, David Stemple (DSte), William Stjern, David L. Suddjian, Yaffa Talcott, Sven Wahlberg, Bruce Walker, Susan Watson (SWa), Jay Dan Webster, Mark Webster (MWe), Harry White, Mike Wihler, David Wimpfheimer, David G. Yee.

Please report observations to Northern California Rare Bird Alert: 528-0288.

—HELEN A. GREEN
Observations Editor
2001 Yolo Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94707

CONSERVATION NOTES

SOUTH BAY WETLANDS LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

A new fund has been announced with a unique purpose. It will provide initial funds to local groups to pursue legal action to protect wetlands. This will free local activists to work with attorneys to put together legal cases; fundraising can then come later when the process is underway.

This fund was created with the court-awarded attorney fees from last summer's lawsuit of Citizens for Open Space in Alvarado (COSA). As is typical in these cases, the attorney's fees were paid by the developers rather than Union City. Because so many contributions to the lawsuit were made by boards and members of Bay Area conservation groups (including GGAS), COSA's executive committee decided to establish this fund with the court award. It is to function within the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge.

Use of funds must be approved by the Legal Fund's five member board which is organized to act quickly. Cases will be reviewed by environmental attorneys to determine merits of the suit and chance of success. When the fund is used it must be viewed as a loan to assure its continuance.

Tax deductible contributions to this fund are encouraged. It is expected to be an effective tool. Checks should be made payable to the Peninsula Conservation Center Foundation—Legal Fund, 453 Tennessee Lane, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Martha Esserlieu at (415) 487-1282 can give further information about the fund.

THE BACK YARD BIRDER

On sleepless nights I amuse myself by listening for the sounds of nocturnal animals. On warm, moonlit nights it's busier than during the daylight hours! Most animals of the night have excellent vision in the dark and prefer the protective concealment of night. In the competitive arena of food-gathering, there are many delicious morsels which are not available during the day but which are active at night.

By far the most common night sound is the munching of deer as they forage among our gourmet shrubs and plants. They are not strictly nocturnal; they are blatant during the daytime raids as well. The masked bandits, raccoons, make a regular sweep of the area in hopes of an open garbage can. They may appear endearing but are very short-tempered during feeding and frequent ferocious wrangles break out among the local band. I may not hear the more quiet opossum, but he's also around, snuffling in the dog's dish. The resident grey fox lets out an occasional stream of yips as it hunts sleeping quail or ripe berries. The Mockingbird goes through his elaborate routine: croaking frog, crickets, squealing tires, caterwauling cat, and various bird imitations. And then I hear my favorites, the owls.

Since the beginning of man, owls have figured in legends, folk lore and superstitions. I, however, do not get chills up and down my spine when I hear the mellow who-who-WHOO of the Great Horned Owl. I can picture its rather ritualistic "dance" as it hoots: a bob forward, lifting its short tail as it vibrates its white throat feathers while it calls. It's easy to imitate and will cooperate by answering a human's attempt at conversation (or maybe it thinks you are a competitor for romance). One

night I began a sort of an a capella chorus among five separate owls in the hollow! I gave up the game long before they did.

The small (7 to 10'' long) Screech Owls prefer to communicate in quavering voices from their pine tree perches. During the day they hope to resemble pine cones so they may sleep unnoticed by others. One day I flushed a sleepy Screech Owl from his perch on a light fixture on my deck. As he flew silently to a tree he was instantly mobbed by a group of jays. He fled their attacks only to land in a shrub near me. We were both surprised but he recovered enough to attempt intimidation by snapping his bill while trying to stare me down. He quickly decided to retreat to a more secretive perch.

Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls belong to a family of typical owls, the STRIGIDAE. Barn Owls are in a separate but closely-related family. They have triangular or heart-shaped facial discs rather than round ones. Their tails are square rather than rounded and the inner edge of their middle claw is serrated. Anyone who has heard the harsh, raspy scream (not unlike a woman's) will agree that it is hair-raising. It is seldom seen as it flies, mothlike, over meadows as it hunts. They spend their days sleeping in tree hollows.

All owls' sight and hearing is extremely keen. Owls *can* see in daylight and actually need some light to hunt. This is why they are most commonly seen at dawn and at dusk. Their eyes are set in the front of the head and are fixed (unlike ours). Since it lacks peripheral vision, the owl can turn its head 180° toward the back.

Ears of owls are even more remarkable than the eyes and acute hearing is vital to hunting on pitch-black nights. In many owls, the ears are located

asymmetrically which allows an owl to detect the exact location, in direction and distance, of sounds, by triangulation. Facial discs probably help to collect and focus sound waves.

Owls' feathers are also special. The leading edge of their primary flight feathers are soft, allowing them to fly silently, to "tiptoe" through the air as they hunt.

Owls consume a variety of foods depending on the size of the species and the availability of food. Since owls cough up pellets containing undigested hair and skeletons, it is known that owls' diets may include rodents of all sizes, small mammals, reptiles, insects, crustaceans. As nature's exterminators, I prefer them to man's means of pest control.

All birds of prey, including owls, are protected by law and cannot be kept without special permission. I consider myself lucky to have three kinds of owls patrolling our neighborhood at night and enriching my sleepless nights.

—MEG PAULETICH

LATE NEWS: BIRD SEED SALE

Again GGAS will have seed available for sale in excess of that ordered and prepaid, and is announcing the sites of the sale. So come, won't you, to stock up on April 11th. (See details, page 47, the *Gull* for March.)

The San Francisco sale will be at 657A South Van Ness Ave., between 17th and 18th Sts. The Berkeley location is 1805 2nd St., between Hearst and Virginia. Volunteers will be there from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to serve you. There will be large signs identifying the sale.

Payment by check is preferred to minimize the making of change. For information call the GGAS office, 843-2222.

SOUND RECORDING IN THE RAIN FOREST

Andy Wiskes, professional sound recordist, will present a talk at 2:00 p.m., Saturday, April 25, in the Oakland Museum Lecture Hall. Wiskes, who recently returned from South America where he recorded sounds for the soon-to-be-released motion picture *Where the River Runs Black*, will discuss field recording techniques gleaned from his extensive experience recording ambient nature sounds. He will illustrate his talk with digital sound recordings made in the Amazon rain forest.

Nature Sounds Society meetings are open to all, amateurs and professionals, interested in natural sounds. For further information contact Paul Matzner, Chair, at the Oakland Museum Natural Sciences Department, (415) 273-3884.

SFSU SIERRA CAMPUS

Two offerings of San Francisco State University's Sierra Nevada Field Campus are of interest:

Birds of the Sierra with instructors Dave Shuford and Paul Jones is an introductory biology class on identification and natural history of birds of the Sierra Nevada. Tuition is \$100 (1 unit credit/grade optional). June 14-20, 1987.

The Function of Bird Song with Dr. Luis Baptista of the California Academy of Sciences, is offered June 6-7. Tuition is \$100.

The Sierra field campus is on Hwy. 49 near Yuba Pass. For information call or write Jim Steele, 323 Thornton Hall, SFSU, San Francisco, CA 94123, (415) 469-1571 or call Paul Jones 359-0219.

ASIAN ORNITHOLOGY

Dedicated to the promotion of ornithology and conservation in Asian countries, the New Institute of Asian Ornithology will collect information and field notes from birders visiting China

or other Asian countries. It will provide information for birders planning trips to Asia. NIAO will also be involved in research and exchange programs.

If you have birded in Asia, or if you are planning a trip there, the people at the Institute would like to hear from you. Alex Hiam, a GGAS member and NIAO representative, can be reached at 339-3665 or 55750 Grisborne Ave., Oakland CA 94611.

COOKIE BAKERS

Willing volunteers to provide refreshments, especially cookies, for GGAS East Bay meetings are needed. Please call Barbara Rivenes at the office, 843-2222, with contributions or suggestions.

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S/BARBARA L. RIVENES, BUSINESS MANAGER
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WAGING WAR IN CENTRAL AMERICA



WAR AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE

Lorenzo Cardenal, Parks Director, Nicaragua, is quoted in the *Green Paper* of the Environmental Project on Central America as saying "war is our greatest environmental problem". Since the war he confronts is largely financed by US taxpayers' dollars, we all have some share in the responsibility for his problems to the extent that our voices are not raised in protest.

Central America's ecological diversity is such that we are represented in large numbers in field trips to see the birds, butterflies and varied landscape of the region; how much better that we

send birders than soldiers.

It seems to your editor that our efforts must include doing something for world peace. Talking together is so much better than name-calling. Reconstruction is so much more satisfying than aggression. Compare the two maps (reproduced with EII permission) to see if you wouldn't rather be involved in "Peace Through Parks".

If you phone Earth Island Institute at 788-3666 the office will be glad to mail you a copy of *Green Paper Number Three*. It is worth having and offers a number of suggestions of things individuals can do to make a difference.

MAKING PEACE THROUGH PARKS IN CENTRAL AMERICA



*Includes national parks, wildlife refuges and sanctuaries, biological reserves, and national monuments.

1987 AUDUBON CAMP IN THE WEST PROGRAMS

Nature Photography in Wyoming

The Wind River Mountains, Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park are the settings for this field seminar on the use of 35 mm camera equipment. Professional photographers led by Perry Conway (producer of a dozen educational filmstrips) will guide you in photographing mountain scenery and wildlife. Five days are spent at the Audubon Camp, three days in Yellowstone and one day in Grand Teton National Park.

Dates: June 19 - June 28, 1987

Audubon Camp in the West For Adults

Geology speaks from the massive rock walls, and petroglyphs stir your curiosity in sessions on native American

culture and wilderness values. Unique birds, mammals, insects, and flowers are tools in the art of understanding this rugged mountain environment. There is also time for hiking, rock climbing, square dancing, canoeing, and volleyball—plus an optional float trip down the spectacular Snake River in Grand Teton National Park. 3 two-week sessions and 1 one-week session are available.

Dates:

Session 1 June 26-July 3, 1987

Session 2 July 5-July 17, 1987

Session 3 July 19-July 31, 1987

Session 4 August 2-August 14, 1987

For more information please write or phone National Audubon Society, 4150 Darley, Suite 5, Boulder, CO 80303; (303) 499-5409.

THE GGAS EXTENDED

Chris Carpenter, GGAS Extended Field Trips Coordinator announced trips for the year. Information or brochures are available from the GGAS office, 843-2222.

Tour Conditions

Tours will be scheduled for the best time of the year in each area. Group size will range from six to twenty members plus leaders. Tour prices include airfare or ground transportation from San Francisco to destination and return, all internal flights and ground transportation, accommodations in double rooms (single accommodations will be made where possible, if requested and at extra cost), trip materials and services of leaders. Meals are not included on tours in the US and Canada unless specifically noted in the itinerary. Meals are included in all other tours unless specifically excluded. Items not included are passport costs, visas, airport taxes, immunizations, excess baggage charges, telephone calls, alcoholic beverages, laundry and other items of a personal nature.

Reservations for weekend trips require a nonrefundable deposit of \$25. Reservations for tours require a deposit of \$200, of which \$25 is nonrefundable. Reservations with deposit are accepted in order of their receipt by mail. Payment of the balance of the trip cost is due sixty days before departure. Refunds for cancellations are made as follows: if notice of cancellation is received more than 60 days before departure, the deposit less \$25 is refunded; if cancellation is received less than 60 days before departure only separable costs will be refunded.

Each tour will have a detailed itinerary and list of conditions. Reservations must be made on forms provided. GGAS reserves the right to cancel any tour and to decline to accept or retain any tour member.

KENYA

Oct. 27-Nov. 19, 1987

One of the greatest wildlife spectacles on earth is found in this friendly country. Vast herds of animals, sweeping vistas and hundreds of species of birds are preserved in numerous parks and game reserves. The climate is mild, food and accommodations superb, and the roads are good. Mammals such as lion, cheetah, zebra, elephant, giraffe, antelope and rhino will be just as much a part of this trip as the birds. The tour also visits the coastal area near Mombassa, where we may also do some snorkeling and sailing. Leaders: Terry Stevenson and Chris Carpenter. Price \$4595.



CHESTNUT-SIDED SHRIKE-VIREO

SOUTHERN MEXICO

Nov. 14-30, 1987

This is a visit to the best of all bird worlds—the tropics—and to the past. We'll search for such exciting birds as Resplendent Quetzal, Dwarf Jay, Pinnated Bittern and Aplamado Falcon. Our birding starts at the remains of the Zapotec Indian city of Monte Alban and ends at the spectacular Mayan ruins of Palenque, where the rain forest harbors an unusual diversity of birds. The tour covers desert, thorn forest, pine woodlands, seashore and the magnificent Sumidero Canyon. Leaders: Lina Prairie and Steve Howell. Price \$2095.

FIELD TRIPS 1987-88

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Feb. 2-25, 1988

This special tour is for those who want to see wildlife and also spend some time both shopping and sightseeing in some of the most picturesque areas of the world. We will visit Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore. Included will be stays at the National Parks of Thailand and Malaysia, where there are still chances of seeing tiger, elephant and monkey. The birds of these areas are particularly colorful and unique, including hornbills, minivets, babblers, leafbirds, bulbuls and frogmouths. Leader: Chris Carpenter. Price \$3450.



HOODED GROSBREAK

COSTA RICA

March 14-29, 1988

The people of this peaceful, enlightened country are proud to have more teachers than soldiers, the highest standard of living, and have preserved more rain forest and cloud forest per square mile than any Central American nation. Visit forests of La Xselva, Volcan Poas, Monteverde, Corcovado and the new Braulio Carrillo National Park. We will also spend a morning with Alexander Skutch at his farm. Leaders: Steve Howell and Lina Prairie. Price \$2950.



PACIFIC SCREECH-OWL

TEXAS SPRING MIGRATION

April 22-May 2, 1988

Spring migration in Texas can bring fallouts of thousands of birds, filling the trees of the Texas coast with a riot of colors. The last GGAS trip had 32 species of warblers, Wood and Grey-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Greater Prairie Chicken, Hudsonian Godwit, Yellow and King Rails on the rail buggy ride, Chachalaca, Henslow's, Bachman's, Seaside and Botteri's Sparrows. The tour covers the Rio Grande Valley, the Upper Coast and East Texas. Leader: Chris Carpenter. Price: \$1495.



AZTEC THRUSH

Illustrations are by Sophie W. Webb and are from *A CHECK-LIST TO THE BIRDS OF MEXICO* by Steve N.G. Howell. It is published by GGAS.

BENEFIT FOR MONO LAKE

Another one—this time two \$1000 Fine Wine Cellars including a 1970 Chateau-Lafite Rothschild, a 1951 Beaulieu Cabernet, plus a choice selection of other outstanding wines. Your donation of \$50 per ticket is tax-deductible. Only 500 tickets will be sold. This means your odds are 250 to 1. The drawing, sponsored by the Mono Lake Committee will be held Thursday, April 23, 1987. For tickets or information write to Mono Lake Fine Wine Drawing, 2242 Lombard St., #105, San Francisco, CA 94123 or call 776-7311.

CORRECTION

The *Gull* for February included a misspelling of Mrs. Ava Jean Pischel's name when we thanked her for a contribution. We apologize and thank Ms. Ann Witter Gillette for calling it to our attention.

NEWS FROM THE RANCH APRIL 1987

Audubon Canyon Ranch
Shoreline Highway, Stinson Beach
(415) 383-1644

Wildlife Sanctuaries & Centers for Nature Education Under Joint Sponsorship of Golden Gate, Madrone, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies
Rick Baird, Chairman

ACR's properties are from time to time the scene of special events. Some of the current ones include a dedication, a thank you party and a memorial service.

The Madrone Audubon Society held a party at the Bouverie Preserve on March 15 to dedicate the laboratory equipment it funded for Gilman Hall. The day featured guided walks, a light lunch and, of course, the necessary speeches for the occasion.

A memorial service for Alis Zumwalt, wife of Clerin Zumwalt, ACR's first naturalist, was held at the Bolinas

GIFTS and BEQUESTS

FOR GGAS

In Memory of

Jay Meikle

Gift of

Margaret W. Christensen

Virginia Huppi

Anne Penrose

Doris & Chuck Denton

Constance Burlingame

Adrienne & Roger Giles

Dorothy Bennett

Mr. & Mrs. Don Shaffer

FOR THE RARE BIRD ALERT

Peter Watkins

The Society welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use for general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society including Audubon Canyon Ranch of which GGAS is a sponsor. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94709. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in *The Gull* as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

Preserve on March 9. She died February 18 after a long illness.

A gala party will be given by the ACR board at the Bouverie Preserve on April 4 for more than 200 1986 donors who contributed \$100 or more. The highlight of the day will be a tour personally conducted by David Bouverie of his home and garden. A private showing of Walt Anderson's beautiful watercolors of birds will be arranged in Gilman Hall for the guests' pleasure. Guided nature walks and refreshments round out the afternoon.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR TWO MAY EVENTS**

In Focus, a 35 mm photography class is scheduled for May 2 and 3 at the

Bolinas Preserve. Ray Peterson will bring joy into your picture taking. If you have a camera and love the outdoors, don't miss this one.

Saturday, May 23, is the date for the third annual **ACR Downhill Hike**. You don't even have to be in shape for this one! It's a leisurely four miles with incredible vistas and fresh Pacific Ocean air. Let's go!

To reserve a spot for these events call (415) 383-1644.

Remember the Community Hikes at the Sonoma Preserve April 25 and May 16 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Reservations must be made by the Wednesday prior to each hike by calling (707) 938-4554.

THE AUDUBON BIRDATHON '87

Taking part in the National Audubon Society Birdathon '87, GGAS needs the support of all members to make it a success. Many of the chapter's top birders will be going out to count as many bird species as they can find April 25 to raise much needed funds for Mono Lake legal efforts. Won't you help? Contributions to the Audubon Birdathon '87 are tax deductible. All funds collected will go directly to the Mono Legal Fund. Help save Mono Lake!

Dear GGAS:

- ☐ Count on me to be a COUNTER in our chapter Birdathon '87. Send me details, I'll find sponsors to pledge money for each species I count during the Blitz.
- ☐ Count on me to be a SPONSOR in our chapter Birdathon '87. I pledge cents/dollars per species seen by:
 - ☐ The East Bay Bird Blitz Team
 - ☐ The S.F. Peninsula Bird Blitz Team
 - ☐ The Alameda Field Trip Team(My maximum contribution will not exceed \$_____.
- ☐ I'd rather send a straight contribution of \$_____ to support Mono Lake. Here is my check.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please make checks payable to GGAS, Inc.. Return this form to:
Birdathon, GGAS, Room 204, 1550 Shattuck Ave., #204, Berkeley, CA 94704.

— SECOND CLASS MATTER



Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Office: 843-2222

1550 Shattuck Avenue #204

Berkeley, California 94709

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THE GULL

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA RARE BIRD ALERT (recorded) (415) 528-0288

Mail for all individuals listed above should be sent to GGAS office.

Send address changes to office promptly; Post office does not forward *THE GULL*. Monthly meetings: second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint membership — local and national \$30 per year (individual); \$38 (family); includes *AUDUBON* Magazine and *THE GULL*; to join, make checks payable to National Audubon Society and send to GGAS office to avoid delay in receiving *THE GULL*. Membership renewals should be sent directly to the National Audubon office. Subscriptions to *THE GULL* separately \$8 per year; single issues \$1. High school and college student membership \$18 per year. Senior citizen individual \$21, senior citizen family \$23. Associate Membership in Golden Gate Audubon Society, \$10 per year.

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. was established January 25, 1917,
and became a chapter of National Audubon in 1948.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month, and July 15th for September issue.